

California Department of Food & Agriculture

Minutes

of the Joint Meeting of the Pierce's Disease/Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board
and Pierce's Disease Advisory Task Force

Held on May 16, 2006

CDFA Auditorium

1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

PD/GWSS BOARD

Members Present

Dennis Atkinson
Edgar "Pete" Downs
Ben Drake

Drew Johnson
Dana Merrill
Steve McIntyre

Al Rossini
Herb Schmidt
Jim Unti

Members Absent

Kevin Andrew
Greg Coleman

Hugh (Wally) Ewart
Bradford Lange

Frank Leeds
Paul Wulf

PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Members Present

Ted Batkin (via
phone)
Robert Crudup
Ben Drake
Scott Hudson
Drew Johnson

Steve Nation
Steven Pavich
Corky Roche
Rick Roush
Judy Stewart-Leslie
Beth Stone-Smith

John Snyder
Kim Waddell
Craig Weaver
Dave Whitmer

Members Absent

Kevin Andrew
Larry Bezark

Nancy Irelan
Joe MacIlvaine

Richard Mounts
Robert Wample

OTHER ATTENDEES

Amadou Ba
Cecelia Chi-Ham
Tom Esser
Mike Falasco
Ken Freeze
Craig Hanes
April Izumi

A.G. Kawamura
Camron King
Paul Kronenberg
Alan Laird
Eric Lauritzen
Janet LeMasters
Greg Morris

Stacie Oswalt
Ted Rieger
Bert Silk
Roger Spencer
Jay Van Rein
Bob Wynn

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chairman Pete Downs and Advisory Task Force Vice-Chair Ben Drake called the meeting to order at 10:10 am.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bob Wynn conducted the roll call for the PD/GWSS Board and the PD Advisory Task Force. A quorum was present for both the Board and the Task Force. Self introductions followed for members and guests.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Pete Downs welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Secretary A.G. Kawamura. The Secretary addressed the members and guests.

Secretary Kawamura thanked the Board and ATF members for all their dedication and hard work. He then mentioned that the new CDFA Resource Directory highlighted the Pierce's Disease Control Program, and thanked all those who were involved in the publication of the directory.

The Secretary went on to discuss how important CDFA's joint partnership with the agricultural industry was in educating the public and government leaders about the importance of Pierce's disease and the glassy-winged sharpshooter. He also discussed other emerging pest threats the Department is facing as well as the farm bill and biofuels.

Bob Wynn announced that Judy Stewart-Leslie was the newest member of the ATF and welcomed her to the meeting. Drew Johnson was welcomed as the newest member of the Board, replacing Robert Steinhauer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ❖ It was **M/S/P** by the Board and the Task Force to approve the minutes of the joint PD/GWSS Board and PD Advisory Task Force meeting held in Temecula on February 27, 2006.
- ❖ It was **M/S/P** by the Board to approve the minutes of the PD/GWSS Board conference call held on May 3, 2006.

NEXT MEETING

A PD/GWSS Board conference call was scheduled for July 12, 2006 at 10 a.m. to discuss the grape assessment rate for the 2006 harvest and the budget for fiscal year 2006-07.

BOARD AND ADVISORY TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP

See Welcome and Opening Remarks.

FISCAL UPDATE

Bob Wynn discussed the budgets for the Board and the Program. Not much has changed since the meeting on February 27, 2006 in Temecula. The Board's budget for the 2006-07 fiscal year will be discussed and approved at a later date.

RESEARCH FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Steve McIntyre, Chair of the Board's Research Screening Committee (RSC), and Tom Esser presented the RSC's research funding recommendation to the Board. Tom discussed special considerations associated with three of the projects. These dealt with duration of funding (one year vs. two years), level of funding (significant reduction vs. minor reduction), and concerns about one project that involved field caging of GWSS in pest suppression areas. After discussion, the Board passed the following motion:

- ❖ It was **M/S/P** by the Board to recommend funding 19 research projects for a total of \$1,968,318. Funding for the GWSS field-caging study should be contingent upon the project being acceptable to the local table grape pest control district.

REVIEW OF RFP PROCESS

Rick Roush and Tom Esser discussed their plans to convene a summit in August 2006 to review the PD/GWSS RFP process and the overall research effort. Researchers and research program managers will be invited to participate in the summit.

PLANT PATHOGEN CONSORTIUM UPDATE

Steve McIntyre and Tom Esser gave an update on recent activities of the Plant Pathogen Consortium (PPC). Three proposals had been endorsed recently by the PPC. These were forwarded in late April to CDFA, with a request to send them out for review. The feedback from the reviewers, and from some of the PPC members, indicated that the proposals were not ready for review yet. A conference call was held May 15, 2006 where a schedule was worked out to finalize the proposals and get them reviewed in time to present them to the Board and then possibly the UC Discovery Grant Program.

PIPRA UPDATE

Cecilia Chi-Ham gave an update on PIPRA intellectual property support contract activities. They have been collecting and analyzing information on PD/GWSS research-related publications, projects, and patents, and created a database and website for searching this information.

PIPRA PROPOSAL

Cecilia Chi-Ham presented and discussed a proposal from PIPRA to continue intellectual property (IP) support activities for the CDFA PD/GWSS Board for another fiscal year. The proposal includes IP database maintenance, development of an annual statement of sponsorship based on plant publication indicators, audit of selected research, educational and advisory services, and written and oral reports. The total amount of the proposal was \$82,000. After discussion, the Board passed the following motion:

- ❖ It was M/S/P by the Board to recommend accepting the proposal and renewing the contract with PIPRA for fiscal year 2006-07.

APPROVED NURSERY TREATMENT PILOT PROJECT UPDATE

Robert Crudup said that the treatment pilot project was running smoothly and proving successful. Greg Morris reported that last year there were 54 shipments carrying a total of 297 egg masses, with no successful emergence. As of May 10 of this year, there have been 27 shipments and 98 egg masses. He talked about changes to and expansion of the treatment pilot project this year, including allowing up to 40 egg masses per shipment, rather than just 10.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION UPDATE

Roger Spencer stated that Brown Miller Communications, Inc. received the contract award to provide outreach and education services to the CDFA PD/GWSS Board.

Ken Freeze provided everyone with copies of the latest newsletter. The newsletters will be coming out quarterly and will include information on research progress, science fairs, and other events and meetings. Ken said that one of his goals was to expand the distribution of the newsletter to include all grape and winegrape growers.

PIERCE'S DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAM UPDATE

Nursery Update: Greg Morris stated that so far there had been more than 24,000 nursery shipments with only 22 problem shipments.

Rapid Response Program: Amadou Ba reported that there were no new GWSS finds this year in Solano, Sacramento, and Santa Clara counties. Solano County recently treated 14 Eucalyptus trees with imidacoprid. Tulare County treated up to 1,552 properties in Terra Bella, Ducor, and southern

Porterville based on trap finds in adjacent commercial areas and visual surveys. After two GWSS-free seasons in Fowler, Fresno County was planning to request that the infestation in that area be declared eradicated. Clovis and Peach-Alluvial were still considered infested due to three properties that were positive for GWSS.

Area-wide Projects Update: Beth Stone-Smith provided an update on the area-wide projects. Trapping and treatment were continuing in Riverside, Kern, and Tulare counties, and trapping continued in Fresno County. Preparations continue for starting a new area-wide program in Ventura County, where an unusually high number of GWSS (over 24,800 insects) have been trapped. They were looking to hire a treatment coordinator. Beth and Bob Wynn recently attended two grower meetings in southern California that included representatives from the state, county, USDA, UC Cooperative Extension Service, Associates Insectary, and numerous industry and citrus grower representatives. The goal was to talk with growers about the program and encourage their participation. There were many positive comments by the 50+ growers who attended.

Pierce's Disease Research Symposium and EIR: Tom Esser reported that negotiations were in progress with various hotels for holding the 2006 Pierce's Disease Research Symposium. He also reported there were no new developments or communications from the Trial Court regarding the EIR lawsuit.

Monterey County GWSS Update: Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner Eric Lauritzen provided an update on the Pebble Beach situation. He explained that five Brazilian pepper trees had arrived on February 2 and were planted on February 3, without the county being notified. During a subsequent visit, county staff found viable GWSS eggs and nymphs on the trees. Treatment was delayed one week due to adverse weather conditions and a scheduled tournament. Eventually, foliar and ground treatments were applied. Surveying and trapping are continuing. A joint inspection on April 26 with county and CDFA staff did not turn up any new finds. The source of the trees is being investigated.

Napa County: Napa County Agricultural Commissioner David Whitmer discussed concerns about nursery inspections, treatment programs, personnel training and turnover, the cost of doing business within the counties, and securing continued support by reaching out to the Congressional delegations in Washington, DC.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE TASK FORCE MEETING

ATF Vice-Chairman Drake adjourned the meeting of the PD Advisory Task Force.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO G.C. SECTION 11126

The Board met in Closed Executive Session to discuss and decide the next steps for the Research Director RFP.

RECONVENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Board's public meeting was reconvened at 3:07 p.m.

OTHER ITEMS

None.

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Pete Downs adjourned the Board meeting at 3:12 p.m.